(ID) Act in both Central and State sphere. According to this information, the number of establishments, which were closed down during 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 154, 175, 159* and 136* respectively. The number of industrial units closed under the ID Act without informing the Government, is not maintained by the Labour Bureau. However, based on information collected from the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), 167 cases were identified in the Central sphere where closure of industrial units under the ID Act was effected between 1997 to 2000 without informing the Government. These establishments had closed down under statutory/Court orders or had closed down after transferring workers to other establishments. Other units, which were closed down without informing the Government, had been employing less than 50 workers. Information on establishments in the State sphere, which had closed down without informing the government, is not maintained by the Central Government.

Handling over of old Army horses to Serum Vaccine Firms

*359. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old horses of the Army were handed over to the serum vaccine firms, leading to their painful death; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, animals (horses and mules) over 18 years of age and unfit for Military Service, but in a satisfactory state of health and free any infectious or contagious diseases, were given free of cost to six Serum Producing Institutes, engaged in the production of life saving vaccines for human and veterinary use.

However, on account of recent reports about ill treatment of these animals, at some of these institutes, no animal from Army has been issued to any serum institute after 1.11.2000.

Non-IFS Ambassador/High Commissioners

*360. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons from Non-IFS category who have been working as Ambassadors/High Commissioners etc.;

(b) the number of IFS officials eligible for such posting who are in waiting; and

(c) whether there are any vacancies in these posts which are yet to be filled up as on date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A total of nine persons from the non-IFS category are serving as Ambassadors/High Commissioners in Missions abroad as of date.

(b) No eligible IFS officer is "waiting" for posting.

(c) Only two posts of Ambassadors/High Commissioners are currently vacant in Missions abroad. The process for selection and appointment of suitable Ambassadors/ High Commissioners to these countries is already in hand.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Nuclear Power Units

2580. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more nuclear power units for the larger benefit of society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENREGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of 2x500 MWe plant at, Tarapur (TAPP-3&4) and additional 2x220 MWe Unit at Kaiga (Kaiga-3&4), besides commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian Assistance and the commencement of work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 1x500 MWe towards the end of the IX plan. Setting up of further Projects progressively during X Plan and XI Plan periods will depend on the availability of financial resources.

Nuclear Power Stations

2581. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Nuclear Power Stations presently functioning under the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC)

(b) the power produced by these nuclear power stations during the last three years, station-wise and whether the same is as per their targeted capacity;

(c) whether lately these nuclear power stations have shown a lot of improvement in their production and the NPC expects to double its production;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the estimated production of nucelar power during the current year and the next year; and

(e) the estimated cost of production per unit by NPC as compared to the production by others?